

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

[0000.2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/DE 2004/001984
filed on September 7, 2004.

[0000.6] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] ~~Prior Art~~ **Field of the Invention**

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0002]:

[0002.5] Description of the Prior Art

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] An apparatus for aftertreating the exhaust of an internal combustion engine, ~~[[is]]~~
known from DE 101 16 214 A1, **stores a** ~~[[.]]~~ ~~[[A]]~~ urea/water solution ~~is stored~~ in a
reservoir and ~~delivered~~ **delivers it** to a mixing chamber by a delivery pump. Compressed air
is blown into the mixing chamber. The resulting aerosol of compressed air and urea/water
solution is blown into an exhaust line upstream of a catalytic converter. In this case, the urea
serves to reduce NOx in the catalytic converter.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] The previously known systems operate with a diaphragm pump to supply the
urea/water solution~~[[.]]~~ ~~[[But]]~~ **but** their delivery capacity is reduced when air is present in
the flow path on the suction side and in particular in a pump head, **and the** ~~[[.]]~~ ~~[[The]]~~
system must therefore be bled. In the known apparatus, ~~[[this]]~~ **bleeding** occurs by means of

Applicant: Michael OFFENHUBER et al.
Docket No. R.305991
Preliminary Amdt.

a solenoid valve that must be triggered by a control unit. In the operation of this solenoid valve, however, it has turned out that even when the solenoid valve is open, it is not always possible to assure the ventilation of the flow path for the reducing agent.

Page 2, please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] The object of the present invention, therefore, is to modify an apparatus of the type ~~mentioned at the beginning~~ **described above** so that it functions in the most reliable way possible.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] This object is attained ~~in an apparatus of the type mentioned at the beginning~~ in that the ventilation device is situated at a geodetic high point of the flow path and in that the ventilation device has an opening, which permits a constant return of a minimal fluid quantity to the reservoir.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] ~~Advantages of the Invention~~

SUMMARY AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION

Page 3, please delete paragraph [0010].

Page 4, please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] It is advantageous if the ventilation device is contained in a filter or in close proximity to a filter. This is based on the ~~following idea:~~ **concept that** urea/water solutions

freeze at temperatures below -11°C , **and in** [[.]] [[In]] order to be able to carry out the NO_x reduction in the catalytic converter even at such low temperatures, it is necessary to be able to heat the apparatus. Particularly after parking for long periods at low temperatures (less than -11°C), the urea/water solution must first be thawed before it is possible to start dispensing the reducing agent. Air inclusions in the frozen urea/water solution and in particular in the region of a filter, however, reduce the transmission of heat from the heater into the urea/water solution and thus prolong the time required to thaw the frozen urea/water solution. The placement of the ventilation device in a filter or in close proximity to a filter reliably prevents the presence of such air inclusions in the urea/water solution in the vicinity of the filter, which accelerates the thawing of the frozen urea/water solution.

Page 5, please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] ~~Drawings~~ **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Particularly preferred exemplary embodiments of the present invention will be explained in greater detail below, in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, **in which:**
[[.]]

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] ~~Description of the Exemplary Embodiments~~

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Page 7, please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] The float valve 40 has a housing 44 with a circular, cylindrical, cup-shaped base section 46. There is an opening 52 in a ~~circumference~~ **circumferential** wall 48 of the base section 46, in the region of a bottom 50 of the base section 46. The line 28 coming from the reservoir 20 and/or from the check valve 22 feeds into this opening 52. Above the base section 46, there is a transition section 54 that tapers in a funnel shape, onto which a cylindrical valve section 56 is formed. A cylindrical valve element 58 is guided in a sliding, fluid-tight manner in this valve section 56. A connecting rod 60 on the valve element 58 toward the base section 46 of the housing 44 is connected to a float 62.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] The valve section 56 of the housing 44 is closed toward the top by a cover 64. In the middle of the cover 64, a pin-like spacer 66 extends toward the valve element 58. A compression spring 67 around this spacer 66 is clamped between the cover 64 and the valve element 58. A ~~circumference~~ **circumferential** wall 68 of the valve section 56 of the housing 44 is provided with a ventilation opening 70, which is connected to the ventilation line 42.

Page 9, please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0037]:

[0038] The foregoing relates to preferred exemplary embodiments of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.